

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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Revenue Department Seeking Assistance To Uncover Motor Fuel Schemes

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Revenue is requesting the assistance of motor fuel distributors and retailers to help identify businesses or individuals that are involved in schemes aimed at avoiding Georgia's motor fuel taxes.

The Department has established a "hotline" number that individuals can use to report suspicious fuel transactions. The statewide toll free number is (877) 383-5829.

"All informant information will be kept in the strictest confidence," said Dale Shuiman, DOR's Motor Fuel Tax Administrator. "Individuals can also call DOR's motor fuel unit at (404) 417-6706 to report suspicious activity."

Shuirman explained that, "some businesses under report their retail sales of motor fuels and thereby avoid state and local sales taxes, which would otherwise go towards paving local roads and building recreational centers and schools."

Another area of concern is the illegal use of non-taxable red-dyed diesel fuel for on-highway use. This fuel should be clearly identified on the fuel pumps as "Not For Highway Use". The minimum penalty for the illegal use of red-dyed diesel fuel is \$1,000 per violation.

Suspicious activity can also be reported using a new reporting form that can be filled out and submitted on-line at the DOR web site (www.gatax.org). Click the link for "Forms" and then click "Motor Fuel". The form can also be printed from the web site and mailed to the motor fuel unit.

The new hotline phone number and tax evasion reporting form compliments the Department's increased emphasis on retail businesses to ensure they are correctly complying with the state's sales and motor fuel tax laws. DOR agents are checking sales tax licenses as part of their routine visits to retail establishments to ensure businesses have a valid sales tax license properly posted.

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